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January 7, 2013

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: DA 12-1863, IB Docket No. 12-340; RM-11683

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I want to echo some of the positive sentiments you have received in support of LightSquared's License Modification Application. I'm from a rural state, where many residents still don't have access to reliable mobile connectivity. As a high school teacher, I know wireless technology is an essential classroom tool, and lack of access puts students on an uneven playing field with their peers who are able to take advantage of many diverse educational opportunities. MOOCs such as Udacity, EdX and COURSERA are developing online educational models that may soon filter down to elementary and secondary education levels in a way that supplements teaching at these levels. Moreover, availability of such courses could eventually strengthen the professional development of teachers like me.

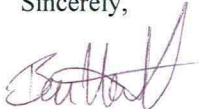
However, access to these or other online opportunities are limited – especially in a broadband-poor state such as Arkansas. As the Computer and Communications Industry Association comments, "LightSquared's business plan, backed up by billions of dollars in new investment ... will enable consumer electronics retailers, device manufacturers, and many smaller carriers to offer mobile wireless service with a national footprint reaching into chronically unserved and underserved rural areas." LightSquared's broadband network could be a game changer for thousands of people in my state, and in rural communities across the country.

As I understand it, LightSquared has offered to give up its rights to terrestrial use of the spectrum that caused alleged interference with GPS devices. This means that GPS receivers will have what amounts to a 10 MHz guardband, basically at LightSquared's expense.

As others have noted, I think this move is reason enough to allow LightSquared to enter into a spectrum sharing agreement with the federal government. This will make efficient use of spectrum, which we all know is a finite and valuable resource. Please move quickly as you address this important issue.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ben Manatt

cc:

U.S. Senator Mark Pryor
U.S. Senator John Boozman
U.S. Representative Steve Womack